

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 648

By Henry

A RESOLUTION to honor Margaret Tolleson for her many years
of meritorious service to the State of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, a fixture in the State Capitol for nearly sixty years, Margaret Tolleson served over fifty-four years as an employee in the office of the Secretary of State, distinguishing herself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and an exceptional asset to the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the daughter of Alta Carr Campion and James Campion, Margaret Campion Tolleson was born and raised in Nashville where she attended Holy Name School and graduated from Saint Cecelia Academy in 1942; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to the State Capitol, Margaret Tolleson continued a family legacy of service to the State of Tennessee when she began her illustrious career in state government in 1943, serving as a journal clerk for the Chief Clerk of the Senate during the 73rd Tennessee General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, Margaret Tolleson's grandfather, Sidney Forrest Carr, had served in the Tennessee House of Representatives from 1919 to 1920, as a member of the historic 61st Tennessee General Assembly; joining with 49 other members, Representative Carr voted "aye" to make Tennessee the 36th and final state to adopt the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution which gave women the vote; and

WHEREAS, leaving her employment with the State of Tennessee after adjournment of the 73rd General Assembly, Margaret Tolleson spent the next few years working for the Federal government; and

WHEREAS, marrying her beloved husband Earl Tolleson in 1947, this joyous couple became the proud parents of three devoted children, daughter Beverly Tolleson Goodwin, Bob Tolleson, and Tommy Tolleson; and

WHEREAS, returning to state employment in 1957, Margaret Tolleson joined the office of the Secretary of State as a part-time employee for her uncle, Joe C. Carr, who was then Secretary of State and holds the distinction of serving in that capacity longer than any other person in Tennessee history; and

WHEREAS, becoming a full-time employee in 1959, Mrs. Tolleson would work for each successive Secretary of State over the next fifty years – Joe C. Carr, Gentry Crowell, Bryant Millsaps, and Riley Darnell – winning legions of admirers and devoted friends who knew all was right with the world when "Miss Margaret" was on duty; and

WHEREAS, the very definition of charm and Southern grace, Margaret Tolleson's service to the people of Tennessee was always conducted with a smile; she befriended the powerful and the powerless with equal charm and attention; and

WHEREAS, truly a Tennessee treasure, on her 82nd birthday Governor Phil Bredesen personally came to her office, knelt down by her chair, held her hand and sang "Happy Birthday" to her in celebration; and

WHEREAS, recently taking her very deserved retirement, Margaret Tolleson plans to spend more time with her family, including her wonderful grandchildren, Bobby Tolleson, Beth Donley, Kristen Tolleson, and Jenny Winston; and her treasured great-grandchildren Matthew Donley, Hunter Tolleson, and Coen Winston; and

WHEREAS, Margaret Tolleson is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby commend Margaret Tolleson for her many years of honorable and astute service to the good people of Tennessee and salute her unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.